

**REPORT/RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS  
OF SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY, CALIFORNIA  
AND RECORD OF ACTION**

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August 5, 2003

**FROM:**       **JAMES A. FELTEN**, Public Health Programs Administrator  
                  Department of Public Health

**SUBJECT:   GRANT APPLICATION FOR INFORMATION AND EDUCATION PROGRAM**

**RECOMMENDATION:**   Authorize the submission of the Grant Application to the California Department of Health Services to apply for the Information and Education (I & E) grant for an annual amount of \$150,000 for Fiscal Year (FY) 2003-2004.

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**   Approval of this item authorizes submission of the Grant Application to Department of Health Services, Office of Family Planning. Funding for the I & E Program will be made available through the Budget Act and Federal Title XIX matching funds for Fiscal Years 2003-2004.

The purpose of the I & E Program is to fund prevention and health education program activities that address the problems of teen and unintended pregnancies. The I & E Program provides funding for education programs that emphasize primary prevention to enhance knowledge, attitudes, and skills of adolescents and young men and women of childbearing age to make responsible decisions relevant to sexual behavior.

The Department has targeted three (3) goals for the program:

- Reduce teen and unintended pregnancies.
- Promote postponing parenthood until one is able to provide for the physical, emotional, social and economic well-being of a child.
- Increase community involvement in building healthy families through awareness of the effects of teen and unintended pregnancies.

This item requests approval for submission of the grant application to DHS in the amount of \$150,000 for State and Federal funding. If awarded, the Department of Public Health intends to use the grant to implement the I & E Program. The I & E program will utilize three strategies that incorporate youth development principles and are designed to decrease teen pregnancy and increase male involvement. First, required for all I & E Projects, a Prevention Education strategy will be used to target pre-sexually active adolescents in San Bernardino County. The implementation of the Postponing Sexual Involvement (PSI) curriculum will provide eight-hours of life skills education to encourage delayed onset of sexual activity. The PSI curriculum will be used in middle schools in San Bernardino County targeting 2,000 adolescents ages 13-15.

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Since 1996, the Department has contracted with school districts to provide Postponing Sexual Involvement (PSI), an interactive, multifaceted abstinence-only training program for eighth grade students. The presentations satisfy the requirement of California Education Code Section 51553a which states: All public elementary, junior high, and senior high school classes that teach sex education and discuss sexual intercourse shall emphasize that abstinence from sexual intercourse is the only protection that is 100 percent effective against unwanted teenage pregnancy, sexually transmitted diseases, and acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS) when transmitted sexually. All material and instruction in classes that teach sex education and discuss sexual intercourse shall be age appropriate. The program has reached approximately 7,000 students in middle schools. Schools are recruited annually through informational presentations, letters, and brochures describing the program. District officials and school principals arrange to have the program presented during normal science classes. School principals, district officials, and teachers are integral in the design of the curriculum. Positive parental consent must be obtained prior to participation in the PSI Program. Parents are encouraged to view the curriculum during a Parent Preview Night conducted at each school site. An expanded, PSI curriculum will be utilized in the I & E project to meet the prevention education requirement.

Education and Support for Significant Adults, Parents, and other Caregivers of Adolescents is another strategy that will be employed in the I&E Program. Five hundred parents, guardians, other adult family members, foster parents, and other adult caregivers will be provided a two-hour informational presentation entitled, "Let's Talk," in order to enhance communication skills with their adolescent children. These interactive parent-only workshops are designed to increase positive parental support and family communication. A major premise of this project is that educational interventions that involve both adolescents and parents have the highest probability of success in preventing unintended pregnancy by delaying the onset of sexual activity and encouraging responsible decision-making. Current research indicates that parents and guardians can have a significant impact on the sexual decision-making of their children.

In 2001, the San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors directed the Department to implement a program teaching parents or guardians of children and young teens the skills necessary to effectively communicate regarding abstinence and abstinence-only education. The "Let's Talk" project was funded by the San Bernardino County Transitional Assistance Department through November 2002 when funding was terminated due to State budget cuts. Evaluation by the San Bernardino County Human Services System's Legislation and Research Unit has shown significant increases in participants' ability to educate their children regarding abstinence-only education and human sexuality. During FY 2001/2002, the project served 377 parents throughout the County. The "Let's Talk" curriculum will be utilized in the I & E project.

The third strategy, Informational Presentations, will be used to provide outreach and educational activities to create awareness and provide information about unintended pregnancy, responsible fatherhood, sexually transmitted infections, and other related topics to approximately 3000 high-risk, sexually active adolescents. The informational presentations, entitled, "Smart Choices," provide educational and outreach activities to connect sexually active adolescents to reproductive health services specifically available to the teen population under FamilyPACT. The services include education, health exams, cancer screening, laboratory tests as indicated, sexually transmitted infection (STI) testing and treatment, HIV testing and referral, pregnancy testing and counseling, TeenSMART counseling, and birth control methods. Adolescents have an opportunity to discuss beliefs, values and sexual and contraceptive behaviors through the TeenSMART counseling programs. A reduction in teen unintended pregnancies and STIs can be reached through these educational and clinical activities by helping adolescents make and sustain "smart" responsible decisions regarding their sexual behavior and the use of contraception.

There are no matching funds required for this grant. Funds are available only during the fiscal year appropriated. The term of the agreement is for 8 months and is subject to appropriation of funds in the FY 2003-2004 Budget Act. The grant agreements will be extended for an additional 24 months for a total of 32-month period, subject to the appropriation of funds in the subsequent fiscal years through FY 2005-2006.

The application requests funding for the addition of one Health Education Specialist I, one Health Education Assistant, and two part-time Health Services Assistant's. Projects are expected to begin on or about November 2003 and operate through June 20, 2006. The Department will return to the Board at that time to accept the award and seek approval for associated staffing actions.

**REVIEW BY OTHERS:** This item has been reviewed by County Counsel (Charles Larkin, Deputy County Counsel) on July 23, 2003. This item has also been reviewed by the County Administrative Office (Carol Hughes, Administrative Analyst) on July 22, 2003.

**FINANCIAL IMPACT:** This item imposes no local County Cost. Expenditures are fully reimbursed by the Department of Health Services. The Department will return to the Board to request approval of the grant award, program budget and associated staffing actions.

**SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT(S):** All

**PRESENTER:** James A. Felten, Public Health Programs Administrator, (909) 387-9146